

Procedure for Conducting Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluations using the AgBMP Tracking Module (11/23/2016)

According to Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share (VACS) Guidelines, Districts are responsible for completing and retaining a Virginia Historic Resources survey and DCR Natural Heritage Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species search documentation for acreages affected by Best Management Practices installed or implemented through the VACS Program. These evaluations will be referred to as a “Threatened and Endangered Species (T/E) Evaluation” and a “Cultural Resources (CR) Evaluation”, respectively. While it is required that a T/E Evaluation be conducted when a BMP is being installed with state financial support (either cost-share or tax credit), the impacts of BMP installation on T/E species should be considered in any planning process. The T/E evaluation procedure contained in this document applies when Districts are considering BMPs and associated components for either VACS funding or tax credit approval.

It is important to note that Districts may continue to work with NRCS in conducting either the T/E evaluation or the CR evaluation. DCR will recognize CPA-52 forms for both T/E and CR evaluations. This document offers an alternative to utilizing NRCS resources for a T/E evaluation and only addresses an alternative process for conducting the T/E evaluation, since at this time, there is no alternative process in the Ag BMP Tracking Program Conservation Planning Module for conducting a CR evaluation.

The T/E query is only required when considering ground-disturbing BMP components.

Users of the AgBMP Tracking Module have the ability to digitize the components of BMPs as they are planned. If these components are considered to be ground-disturbing, a spatial query will be run to identify any potentially impacted T/E species within 2 miles of the ground-disturbing component. When a potential impact is identified, a review should be conducted by the Division of Natural Heritage (DNH). The following instructions are designed to aid the District user in the process of determination of a T/E “hit” as well as in the creation of files and maps required for DNH review.

- The AgBMP Tracking Module contains a layer of generalized spatial T/E data provided by DNH. This data is updated on a regular basis as provided by DNH.
- When BMP components are digitized in the AgBMP Tracking Module, the system automatically performs a spatial query for any T/E resources which fall within 2 miles of a ground-disturbing BMP component. The result of the query is documented in the spatial data section of the component.

The image below illustrates the way that the module specifies components as not ground-disturbing vs. ground-disturbing.

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https://dswcappstest.dcr.virginia.gov/training/home/bmp/bmpinstance.aspx?id=205125&planid=480

Plan: [Redacted]
Practice: SL-6: Stream Exclusion With Grazing Land Management [Convert to Voluntary](#)
Fields: none
Acres in Practice: 0.00

General
Measurements
Map BMP
Related Instances
Components
Attachments
Legacy Map
Save BMP

Export Bounding Box of Ground Disturbing Components

Type	Required	Status	Calculated Measurement	Actual Measurement	
Fence	Yes	Planned	632.290 feet	640.000 feet	Delete
Fence	Yes	Planned	106.890 feet	106.890 feet	Delete

Narrative: Construct a fence for use as a barrier to wildlife, livestock, or people.

Spatial Information

Near T&E: *Not a ground disturbing component, query not run*

Near Cultural Resource: *Query not run*

City/County: Giles County

Healthy Watersheds: *None Found*

Fema Floodplains: X

Ranked HUCs: NE63-Medium

HUCs: Bear Spring Branch-New River

TMDLs: *None Found*

Watersheds: NE63

Type	Required	Status	Calculated Measurement	Actual Measurement	
Pipeline	No	Planned	521.900 feet	521.900 feet	Delete

Narrative: Install a pipeline to convey water from supply source to points of use.

Spatial Information

Near T&E: Ground disturbing component, T&E found

Near Cultural Resource: *Query not run*

City/County: Giles County

Healthy Watersheds: *None Found*

Fema Floodplains: X

Ranked HUCs: NE63-Medium

HUCs: Bear Spring Branch-New River

TMDLs: *None Found*

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- If a potential impact is detected and a T/E “hit” is found (as seen in the image below), a review by DNH should be initiated. The user must generate both a polygon shapefile and a location map to be submitted to DNH with the request for review. The AgBMP Tracking Module allows the user to generate and export a polygon shapefile “bounding” the ground-disturbing components as illustrated in the two images below.

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https://dowcappstest.dcr.virginia.gov/training/home/bmp/bmpinstance.aspx?id=205125&planid=480

Training

Main Plans Administration Reports Support My Account Welcome, barbara.mcgarra Logout

Dashboard > Conservation Plan

Plan: [Redacted]

Practice: SL-6: Stream Exclusion With Grazing Land Management [Convert to Voluntary](#)

Fields: none

Acres in Practice: 0.00

General **Export Bounding Box of Ground Disturbing Components**

Measurements

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Components

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Legacy Map

Save BMP

Type	Required	Status	Calculated Measurement	Actual Measurement	
Fence	Yes	Planned	632.290 feet	640.000 feet	Delete
Fence	Yes	Planned	106.890 feet	106.890 feet	Delete
Pipeline	No	Planned	521.900 feet	521.900 feet	Delete

Narrative: Install a pipeline to convey water from supply source to points of use.

Spatial Information

Near T&E: Ground disturbing component, T&E found

Near Cultural Resource: [View on Map](#)

City/County: Giles County

Healthy Watersheds: None Found

Fema Floodplains: X

Ranked HUCs: NE63-Medium

HUCs: Bear Spring Branch-New River

TMDLs: None Found

Watersheds: NE63

Water Well	No	Planned			Delete
Watering Facility	No	Planned			Delete

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https://dowcappstest.dcr.virginia.gov/training/home/bmp/bmpinstance.aspx?id=205125&planid=480

Training

Main Plans Administration Reports Support My Account Welcome, barbara.mcgarra Logout

Dashboard > Conservation Plan

Plan: [Redacted]

Practice: SL-6: Stream Exclusion With Grazing Land Management [Convert to Voluntary](#)

Fields: none

Acres in Practice: 0.00

General **Export Bounding Box of Ground Disturbing Components**

Measurements

Map BMP

Related Instances

Components

Attachments

Legacy Map

Save BMP

Type	Required	Status	Calculated Measurement	Actual Measurement	
Fence	Yes	Planned	632.290 feet	640.000 feet	Delete
Fence	Yes	Planned	106.890 feet	106.890 feet	Delete
Pipeline	No	Planned	521.900 feet	521.900 feet	Delete

Narrative: Install a pipeline to convey water from supply source to points of use.

Spatial Information

Near T&E: Ground disturbing component, T&E found

Near Cultural Resource: [View on Map](#)

City/County: Giles County

Healthy Watersheds: None Found

Fema Floodplains: X

Ranked HUCs: NE63-Medium

HUCs: Bear Spring Branch-New River

TMDLs: None Found

Watersheds: NE63

Water Well	No	Planned			Delete
Watering Facility	No	Planned			Delete

Export Bounding Box for All Ground Disturbing Components

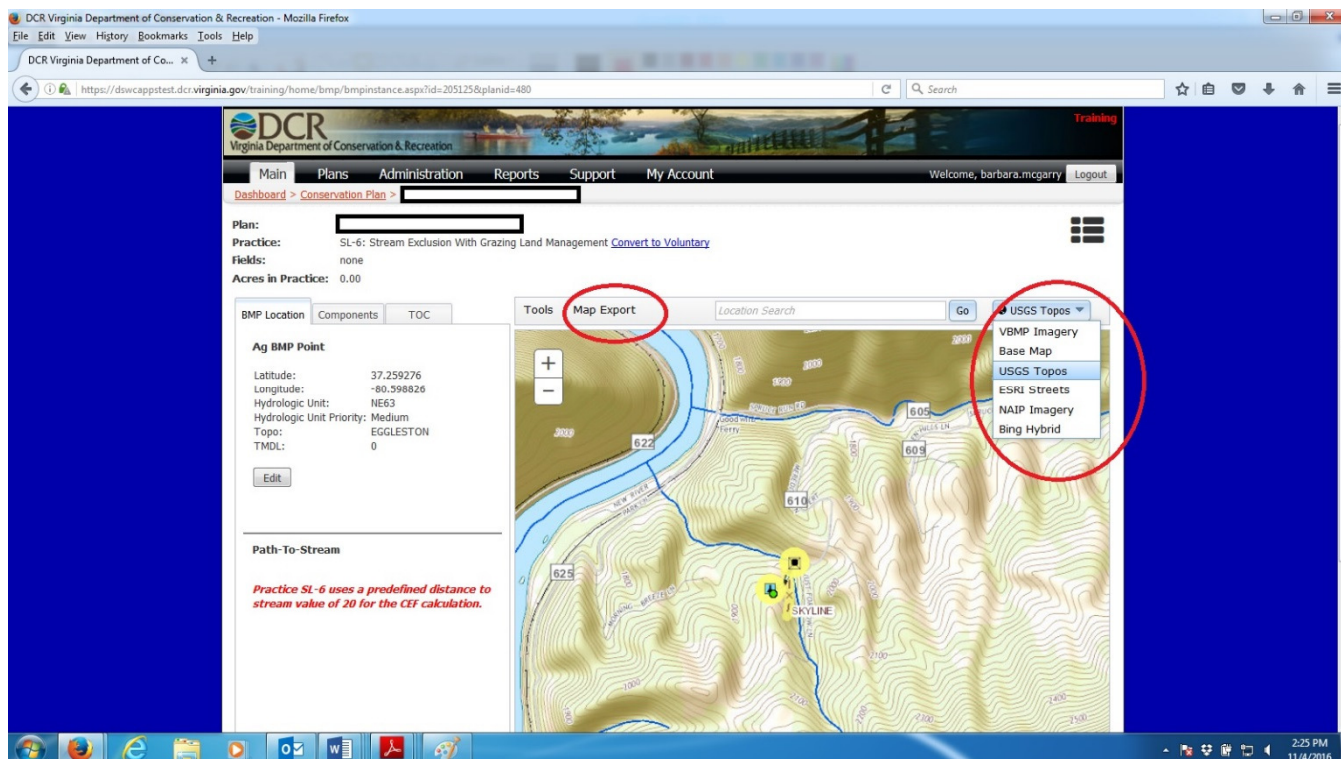
This will export a bounding box representing the minimum rectangular extent for all ground disturbing components associated with the BMP.

☐ Save to BMP as an Attachment

Export Cancel

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- Next, the user should generate a USGS topo map showing the location of ground-disturbing components and the potentially impacted species.



The District user will attach both the shapefile and map export when submitting a request for an environmental review via the Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer. This review by DNH will also provide feedback regarding whether further review will be needed by DGIF and/or USFWS.

DNH Review Request

Requests for reviews should be submitted through the Division of Natural Heritage on-line information service order form.

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/nhserviceform/?non_fee

For questions about submitting a request to DNH, please contact Rene' Hypes, Project Review Coordinator at Rene.hypes@dc.virginia.gov or (804) 371-2708.